

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A tracheostoma cannula mounting for assisting in the mounting of a cannula within a stoma of a tracheostoma patient comprising a generally planar sheet portion provided with an aperture therein of suitable size and shape to engage a channel portion of a tracheostoma cannula in interference fit so as to present a rearward mounting face adapted in use to lie against the skin of the tracheostoma patient in the vicinity of the stoma, wherein the material from which the sheet is fabricated comprises tacky gel material at least in the vicinity of the mounting face.

2. (original): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 wherein the inner edge defining the aperture in the mounting member presents a surface of tacky gel material to contact with the cannula in use.

3. (currently amended): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the sheet portion comprise a tacky gel layer in a multi-layer sheet.

4. (currently amended): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the sheet portion consists essentially solely of the tacky gel material, save for an optional thin layer of non-tacky protective material at edges and/or faces of the sheet portion which are adapted to lie externally in use and/or be removed prior to use.

5. **(currently amended):** A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the aperture in the sheet portion of the mounting member is generally circular and shaped and sized to engage the outer circumference of the channel portion of a generally cylindrical cannula in interference fit.

6. **(original):** A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 5 wherein the mounting member is generally circular, such that the mounting member comprises an annular portion of sheet material.

7. **(currently amended):** A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the sheet material is 1 to 7 mm thick.

8. **(currently amended):** A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 further comprising a removable non-tacky protective layer over the mounting surface which can readily be removed by a user to expose the tacky surface of the gel to allow the mounting member to be applied.

9. **(currently amended):** A tracheostoma cannula comprising a central channel portion adapted to be received through a stoma, a forward portion adapted to sit externally of the stoma in use and a mounting portion adapted to sit within the trachea abutting an internal surface of the stoma in use, and comprising a flange portion of increased cross section to the body portion so as to assist in retaining the cannula within the stoma, and further comprising a mounting in accordance with ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 comprising a sheet portion provided with an aperture so sized and shaped as in use to be retained around the channel portion of the cannula

immediately external of the stoma in interference fit, so as to present a mounting face engageable upon the external surface of the tracheal region of the wearer in the vicinity of the stoma in use.

10. (currently amended): A method of sealably mounting a cannula in a tracheostoma comprises the steps of inserting a cannula into the stoma, applying a mounting in accordance with ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 therearound so as to present the mounting face to the skin of the external surface of the tracheal region of a wearer in the vicinity of the stoma, applying pressure to effect a releasable seal between mounting face and skin.

11. canceled.